



**Town of Arlington
Office of the Town Manager**

**Adam W. Chapdelaine
Town Manager**

**730 Massachusetts Avenue
Arlington MA 02476-4908
Phone (781) 316-3010
Fax (781) 316-3019
E-mail:
[townmanager@town.arlington
n.ma.us](mailto:townmanager@town.arlington.ma.us)
www.arlingtonma.gov**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Dec 16 Arlington Joins Regional Effort to Curb the Spread of COVID-19
*New guidance for gyms, fitness centers, bars, movie theaters, and more.***

Town officials continue to monitor the spread of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, daily and coordinate regionally to make the best decisions for the safety of all our residents. As our public COVID-19 dashboard indicates, Arlington case counts have grown at an alarming rate the past two months, with 66 cases in October, 181 cases in November, and 169 cases as of Dec. 13th. The City of Boston also reports that the percentage of occupied adult non-surge ICU beds at Boston hospitals is at 90 percent as of December 10, 2020. Due to these increases, and anticipated increases, the Town of Arlington joins the City of Boston, along with mayors and city leaders from Somerville, Newton, Brockton, Lynn, and Winthrop to issue new guidance to help curb the spread of COVID-19.

"The state's reopening plan was developed with consideration to urban and suburban areas," said Arlington Town Manager, Adam Chapdelaine. "We would prefer the state issue today's advisories, but understand they may be bound by other pressures. In absence of state-wide advisories, Arlington, as a dense suburb, will work with our regional neighbors to issues guidance to reduce the spread of the virus."

The new guidance takes effect Wednesday December 16th and will last for at least 3 weeks and impacts Restaurants providing indoor table service, indoor recreational and athletic facilities and venues, fitness centers and health clubs, museums, indoor historic spaces, movie theaters, indoor events, and organized tours. See below for full list industry and new requirements.

As a reminder, the following State orders remain in effect to reduce the transmission of the virus:

- [Face coverings order](#): face masks or cloth face coverings are required in all public places, whether indoors or outdoors, even where they are able to maintain 6 feet of distance from others.
- [Travel order](#): all visitors entering Massachusetts, including returning residents are required to:
 - Complete the [Massachusetts Travel Form](#) prior to arrival, unless visiting from a [lower-risk state](#) designated by the Department of Public Health.
 - Quarantine for 14 days or produce a negative COVID-19 test result that has been administered up to 72-hours prior to arrival in Massachusetts.
- [Stay-at-Home Advisory](#): residents of Massachusetts are advised to stay home between the hours of 10 p.m. and 5 a.m.
- If you are not feeling well, please get tested, the state has recently increased their testing options at their stop the spread testing sites. Learn more at mass.gov/stopthespread.

Arlington continues to follow the state's [Reopening Massachusetts Plan](#), but will supplement the Plan with additional advisories as public health data dictate.

Effective December 16, 2020

Town of Arlington New COVID-19 Restrictions (adapted from City of Boston)

| <u>Industry</u> | <u>New Requirements</u> |
|--|---|
| Indoor recreational and athletic facilities for general use (<u>not</u> limited to youth programs) | Closed to customers and the public, provided that: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Indoor recreational and athletic facility use for youth 18 and under only is allowed, as permitted in Phase II of the State's guidance. |
| Fitness Centers and Health Clubs | Indoor fitness centers and health clubs are not allowed to operate, including those using alternative indoor spaces, provided that: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Appointment-only training with only one customer (or two from the same household) is allowed in a facility at a time.- Fitness centers and health clubs that have retail operations shall be permitted to operate those functions following retail workplace safety standards. |
| Museums | Closed to customers and the public. |
| Indoor historic spaces/sites | Closed to customers and the public. |
| Movie theaters | Closed to customers and the public. |
| Indoor event spaces (meeting rooms, ballrooms, private party rooms, social clubs) | Not allowed to operate, provided that: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Private social clubs may operate if they serve food and comply with all regulations and guidance applicable to restaurants. |
| Sight-seeing and other organized tours | Not allowed to operate. |
| Indoor recreational venues with potential for low-contact (batting cages, driving ranges, bowling alleys, rock-climbing) | Closed to customers and the public. |
| Restaurants providing indoor table service | Restaurants providing seated food service prepared on-site may operate only under the following requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Continued compliance with all relevant state workplace standards, including the six persons per table limitation.- Bar seating is prohibited, unless a waiver is received from the Licensing Board.- Strict enforcement of all standards including the 90 minute limit to reduce crowding and prevent the spread of COVID-19. No member of any dining party may remain in a restaurant for more than 90 minutes in a calendar day.- No live entertainment; permissible entertainment is limited to approved |

| | |
|---|--|
| | <p>televisions and background music.</p> <p>- All activities ancillary to dining are prohibited, including but not limited to billiards, bowling, and darts</p> |
| Outdoor event spaces used for gatherings and celebrations, including those in parks, reservations, and other outdoor spaces not designated in Phase IV. | Capacity at both Outdoor Gatherings at Private Residences and Outdoor Gatherings at Event Venues and in Public Settings would be 25. For Indoor Gatherings at Private Residences and Indoor Gatherings at Event Venues and in Public Settings, capacity would be 10. |
| Post-Secondary/Higher Ed/Vocational-Tech/Trade/Occupational Schools | While Higher-Ed institutions are allowed to remain open, specific on-campus facilities (e.g. dining hall, gym) would follow the specific industry guidelines. |
| Office space capacity | Office spaces may remain open at 40 percent capacity. Employers are strongly encouraged to allow employees to work from home as much as possible. |